



Oak Grove Student Council | November 2021 Newsletter



# Trombone? Violin? Clarinet?

Consider style, cost before choosing an instrument

By Alex Raszkievicz

Choosing the right instrument for yourself is a challenge, but it is important so that you can fulfill your passion for music and enjoy playing.

First, ask yourself, “What kind of music do you like?” For example, it could be jazz, rock, hip-hop, country, etc. Each type of music has a specific instrument to make the sound you like. Before you pick the right one, try experimenting with a variety of instruments to find the one you truly enjoy.



Next, you have to find out the cost of your instrument. The price depends on how complex the instrument is and what associate cost is with certain instruments such as tune, picks, and lessons. For classical instruments, rental programs are good if you are not sure what instrument you want to play. You have the option to rent an instrument for a school year, extend it for another year, or trade it in for another instrument. You can also buy the instrument if you are certain it is the right one for you.

Finally, you have to ask yourself, “How does my brain work and what are my physical abilities?” Playing an instrument is very much a physical activity; some instruments use more muscles than others, while others require fine motor skills. If you know that, you are very close to choosing the right instrument.

Playing an instrument helps you relieve stress, and improve your memory and patience, so make sure you choose the right one.

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## Students have a choice: band or orchestra

By Eleanor Huang

It might be your turn to choose an instrument. Let's just say that it's currently almost the end of 4th grade for you, and you want to learn an instrument, but you don't know which one. Here are some tips:

- First, choose band or orchestra - both ensembles have very different instruments. If you still don't know which one to choose, you could search up videos of bands or orchestras to hear what they sound like. That might make your decision easier.
- Once you've narrowed it down to whether you're going to choose band or orchestra, you can start listening to the instruments you think you might be interested in. If you want a higher sounding instrument, maybe listen to the violin or viola from orchestra. If you want a deeper sounding instrument, maybe listen to the cello or double bass from orchestra. If you prefer the brass sound, consider a band instrument such as a trumpet, trombone, tuba, or saxophone.
- Don't worry. Before you choose your instrument for sure, you can try out the instrument and see if you like it. If not, you can always keep thinking.
- Once you've chosen your instrument and have started to lessons, make sure you pay attention, work hard, and practice. This way you'll be good in no time.

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## Thanksgiving first celebrated in 1621

Thanksgiving is an annual tradition celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November to honor the blessings of the past year. The first Thanksgiving was a three-day feast celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621 when they gathered at Plymouth to mark the first autumn harvest. According to an article on History.com, the first meal might have consisted of wild turkey and venison. Today, the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving meal is typically turkey. Side dishes often include corn bread, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, and a variety of pies for dessert.



*Emily Belfiore, Grace Shreshtha, and Eliana Haimowitz contributed to this story.*

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## INTERVIEW WITH ...

# Ms. McCabe

## 6th Grade Teacher

### 1. Why did you become a teacher?

I became a teacher because when I was in elementary school, I had difficulties. I was classified as a special education student. Learning came hard for me, and I struggled to just get passing grades. Other students said things to me that made me sad. However, my parents and teachers reinforced in me that "book smarts" was just one way of being a student. They impressed upon me that everyone shows what they know differently and each person has their own "talents." Additionally, my mother was a special education teacher. She loved her job, and I thought this would make an excellent career choice.

### 2. What is your favorite subject to teach? Why?

I like teaching any subject that lets the students "run the show." I had a mentor many years ago who said the best thing a teacher can do is act as the "guide on the side." This means that you prepare your students about a particular topic, then you let the students show you what they learned the best way that matches their personality -- maybe through a presentation, a report, a 3-dimensional project, or the construction of a model.

### 3. What was your favorite subject in school? Why?

Recess! I was a kickball champion and kicked clean-up in the kicking order. I also had amazing pitching abilities.

### 4. How do you motivate your students?

Hands-on learning opportunities such as digging for artifacts; integrating technology into lessons; and using incentives for effort and achievement.

## 5. What is your hidden talent?

- I can make a realistic cheetah growl.
- Outstanding bingo caller. I have verbal communication skills, thoroughness and attention to detail, patience, and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations.
- I can identify any “Little House on the Prairie” episode by the opening credits.
- I am an incredibly fast walker.

Interview by Zachary Paredes

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**INTERVIEW WITH ...**

# Ms. Marino

## 4th Grade Teacher

### 1. Why did you become a teacher?

I always had a big family of teachers. My mom was a teacher, my dad was a teacher, and now I'm a teacher. The first time I stepped into a classroom ... that was the moment I wanted to become a teacher.

### 2. What is your favorite subject to teach? Why?

My favorite subject to teach is reading because when I'm reading a book with my class, I like to get everybody on the edge of their seats and make it more dramatic.

### 3. What was your favorite subject in school? Why?

My favorite subject in school is math because I love solving all the problems up until high school. That is when math starts to get hard. But yeah, I just really love to solve problems.

### 4. How do you motivate your students?

I try to make it fun for everyone. So I try to make fun problems and doing fun lessons and fun books. I just try to make it enjoyable for everyone so everyone could have fun.

## 5. What is your hidden talent?

I don't really have a hidden talent, but I do ski with my family every year. It's fun because I get to spend time with my family, and yeah, I guess my hidden talent is skiing.

Interview by Delilah Antonini

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## Students thank vets, collect food donations

The Student Council created “thank-you” cards to send to veterans residing at Castle Point VA Hospital in time for Veterans Day. Students in every grade signed and wrote messages inside the cards. The Student Council also collected nearly 400 items for this year's Thanksgiving food drive to help needy families in our community.



## Trait of the Month

The Trait of the Month for November is **Bully Free**. Bully Free is about helping people who are being picked on by others. Let's look at this example: John was having trouble with a bully during recess on the playground. His friend Samantha saw this, so she told her teacher, who took care of the problem. Something else you can do is tell the bully to stop. If they continue to bully you, then tell the teacher what's been happening.

- Shane Riley

## Upcoming Events

The **Holiday Gift Shop** is Dec. 3.

The **Talent Show** is Dec. 3 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Movie Night** on Dec. 9 features “Space Jam: A New Legacy” from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

## Did You Know?

Your body is made up of 206 bones. The *stapes*, found in your middle ear, is the smallest bone. The *femur*, between your hip socket and knee, is the longest bone.

## Trivia Question

On the PBS children's show "Arthur," what is Arthur's full name? ("Arthur" ends its 25-season run early next year.)

**Answer to last June's question:**  
Bees have two pairs of wings.

## Must-Click Site of the Month



If you're interested in taking a look at what polar bears and hippopotamus do all day, then check out the [San Diego Zoo](#). The zoo features more than a dozen live webcams on animals and birds including penguins, koalas, elephants, tigers, and giraffes. Keep in mind that there's a three-hour time difference, so the animals might be asleep when you're checking in.

## Students of the Month ~ June 2021

Grade	Teacher	Students
K	Mrs. Leveque	Amy Patino, Tobias Horton
K	Mrs. Kirsch	Grayson Williams, Finnley Wheeler
K	Ms. Vilar di	Emma Fluery, Emmalia Stossel
SC 1/2	Mrs. LaSalvia	Antwan Bartholmew, Ava Tramel
1	Mrs. Greene	Josalyn Barnes, Jameson Berger
1	Mrs. Berwick	Olivia Weeks, Jonathan Ishak
1	Ms. Tyburski	Arisleydis Valerio, Dante Panasik
2	Ms. Merritt	Emerson Davis, Matthew Gordineer
2	Mrs. Wilson	Ahmed Gaadan, Emma Davenport



2	Ms. Murray	Chloe Francis, Liam LaRosa
SC 3/4	Mrs. DiPalma	JJ Rodriguez, Sapphire Noad
3	Ms. Gashi	Savannah Dick, Liam Hynes
3	Mrs. Zmudosky	Lucy Borsch, Hayden Feldman
4	Ms. Segarra	Giovanni Celli, Maria Williams
4	Ms. Marino	Joshua Gordineer, Ava Montaruli
4	Mrs. Walker	Allie Cinquegrana, Jude Kolachik
SC 5/6	Mrs. Kearney	Joseph Scalice, Matthew Menjivar
5	Mrs. Dease	Deen Rosario, Elisabeth Cano
5	Ms. Hickey	Olivia Lipiro, Evan Staples
5	Ms. Halliday	Josue Pizarro, Maya Williams
6	Ms. McCabe	Colin Orlov, Ana Huang
6	Mr. Lander	Lexington Haag, Nathaniel Wesner
6	Mrs. Roe	Shane Riley, Marcella Edwards

## Student Council Members

**Delilah Antonini**

**Emily Belfiore**

**Michael Busby**

**Karly Cservak**

**Eliana Haimowitz**

**Eleanor Huang**

**Zachary Paredes**

**Alex Raszkievicz**

**Shane Riley**

**Joshua Rodriguez-Allen**

**Grace Shrestha**

**Amaya Siddique**



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**Oak Grove Elementary School**

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